DID YOU HEAR THE BELLS ON THE 17TH?

If you are wondering why all of the church bells of Carbondale, as well as the Hendrick horn, were heard at 7:05 P.M. on December 17, 1981, the answer is given in the text that is given below. This text, written by S. Robert Powell, was read by him to the group assembled in the lobby of Carbondale City Hall at 6:50 P.M. on December 17, 1981.

Carbondale City Hall, designed by Truman I. Lacey and erected under his direction by G. D. Stevens and George H. Tryon, has been the seat of the government of the city of Carbondale since 1894. This building was not erected for the use of one generation or five generations or ten generations. This building was built for all generations, for all time. It is, therefore, the responsibility of every generation of Carbondaleans to maintain and transmit to the following generation a healthy building. It is now our turn to look after City Hall and to make certain that the building that we bequeath to our children is as vigorous as the building that we inherited from our parents. If it is not, it is we who will bear the burden of shame. If it is, it is we who will be credited with having had faith not only in ourselves and in our city, but also in our children and the city that we bequeath to them.

In order to do our part on behalf of this building, therefore, we are gathered here tonight to officially launch a fund raising campaign, whose purpose it is to secure the funds necessary to repair the clock, the outside walls, and the roof of Carbondale City Hall. The Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall is, be it known, an independent group of Carbondale citizens and friends of this building. We are not affiliated with any agency of the city, county, or state government. Our only allegiance is to this building. The funds that we have already raised, as well as the funds that we will ultimately raise in order to achieve our objectives, are completely under our control. These funds will be used for one purpose and for one purpose alone--to restore Carbondale City Hall to its former beauty.

Our first objective is to repair the clock in the tower. For many years, as we all know, time has stood still on the City Hall clock. Tonight, at the beginning of this fund raising campaign to restore this building, at 7 P.M., the bell in the tower will ring seven times and the lights behind the four clock faces in the tower will come on. We are indebted, in particular, to seven outstanding citizens of Carbondale for making this possible: Tom Brennan, who will cause the tower bell to ring; George Wallis, who provided the bulbs for the inside of the clock-level of the tower; John Buberniak, who repaired the stairs leading to the tower and made access to the tower safe; Joe Burrell, who is preparing to screen off the holes under the eaves and to replace the broken lancet windows on the fourth story of the tower and make it impossible for pigeons and starlings to again enter the tower. After the tower bell has rung seven times, the bells of the churches of Carbondale will ring and the Hendrick horn will sound and in that manner the message will be relayed far and wide that Carbondale City Hall is a living building. For arranging to have the church bells ring and the Hendrick horn sound, we are indebted to Nan Loftus, Jean Colville, and Joe Pascoe. When all of the bells of Carbondale have stopped ringing, we will convene in the City Council chambers on the second floor of this building for the biweekly meeting of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

What we do here tonight, we do to remind the world of three facts: (1) that there is life in this magnificent building; (2) that Carbondale City Hall is very much a part of our lives; and (3) that Carbondale City Hall is an integral part of the life of the city of Carbondale. What you will see and hear tonight at 7 P.M. is a demonstration. It does not mean, be it known, that the clock is repaired. The clock is still broken. The bell in the tower of Carbondale City Hall will ring tonight only because Tom Brennan will manually cause it to ring. What you will hear and see here tonight at 7 o'clock should not, therefore, be taken to mean that our work in regard to the tower clock and in regard to this building has been completed. On the contrary, our work has only just begun.

If you are not now a member of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, join with us, therefore, and help to keep the lights shining forth and the bell ringing in the tower of this building. Join with us, therefore, and help to restore this magnificent building so that it will always be a part of Carbondale. Join with us, therefore, as we reaffirm our faith in the city of Carbondale--past, present, and future.

Thank you.